

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 IO-14 SY-04 PM-07 NSC-07

SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

SCA-01 L-03 PRS-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 006533

R 161228Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0079

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 8260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO FOUR

REF: STATE 148742; ADDIS 8098

1. FONMIN ZEWDE HAS NOT YET RETURNED AND FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOT CERTAIN WHEN HE WILL RETURN, ALTHOUGH IT NOT LIKELY BE LATER THAN JULY 19. WE REALIZE THAT DEPT WOULD LIKE GO AHEAD WITH PROPOSED DEMARCHE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT AFTER CAREFUL REFLECTION BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER WAIT FEW MORE DAYS IN ORDER SEE ZEWDE RATHER THAN SEE PRIMIN SOMEWHAT EARLIER.

2. IN VIEW OF POSITION ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN ON AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, CABINET WOULD OBVIOUSLY NEED DISCUSS WITH AFCC ANY PROPOSAL TO RELATE RELEASE OF ELF PRISONERS TO AMNESTY WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN PROCLAIMED. AS INDIVIDUAL WHO PREVIOUSLY HEADED CABINET COMMITTEE NEGOTIATING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AFCC, AND WILL PROBABLY DO SO AGAIN, ZEWDE IS IN BETTER POSITION THAN PRIMIN DEAL WITH MILITARY ON THIS ISSUE. MOREOVER, A AMBASSADOR REYNOLDS OBSERVED, HE PROBABLY HAS BETTER REPUTATION WITH AFCC THAN

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DOES PRIMIN.

3. TENNECO'S GRAHAM, WHO WAS HERE LAST WEEKEND, SAID ZEIN SENT TELGRAM ON JULY 12 INDICATING HE WOULD BE IN KHARTOUM WITHIN THREE DAYS. GRAHAM ACCORDINGLY RETURNED KHARTOUM JULY 15. IT SEEMS QUITE POSSIBLE WE WILL THEREFORE HAVE WITHIN A DAY OR TWO ZEIN'S STATEMENT OF CAPTORS' CURRENT DEMANDS, POSSIBLE A STATEMENT OF TOTAL DEMANDS. WE CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT IEG WILL BE MORE INCLINED FOCUS CAREFULLY ON THIS ISSUE WHEN IT KNOWS WHAT TOTAL DEMANDS ARE.

4. AS MENTIONED EARLIER, ZEWDE IS LIKELY TO BE MORE RECEPTIVE THAN PRIMIN TO IDEA OF RELATING RELEASE OF ELF PRISONERS TO GOVERNMENT'S NEW POLICY ON ERITREA. THIS APPROACH LOOKS UNPROMISING AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, SINCE IEG IS HARDLY LIKELY TO WISH PROCLAIM MORE LIBERAL AND FORTHCOMING POLICY TOWARDS ERITREA SHORTLY AFTER ASSASSINATION OF DEJ. HAMID (ASMARA 587.).

5. IF CANADIAN CHARGE GAUTHIER AND I DID SEE PRIMIN NOW, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY HE WOULD DO MUCH ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL RETURN OF ZEWDE, SINCE LATTER HAS BEEN CABINET MINISTER CLOSEST TO THIS ISSUE.

6. GAUTHIER AND UNDP REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIPS CONCUR.
WYMAN

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